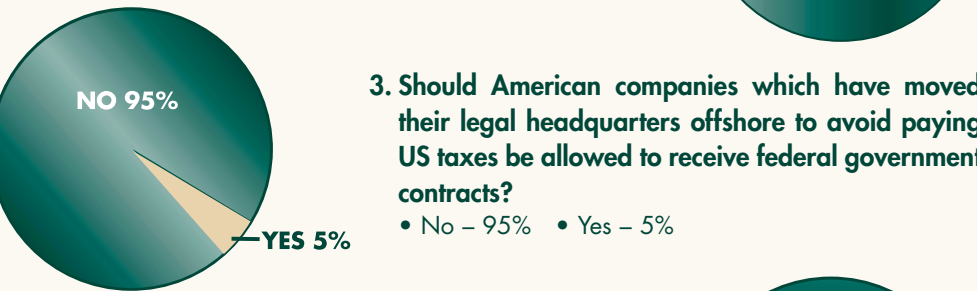
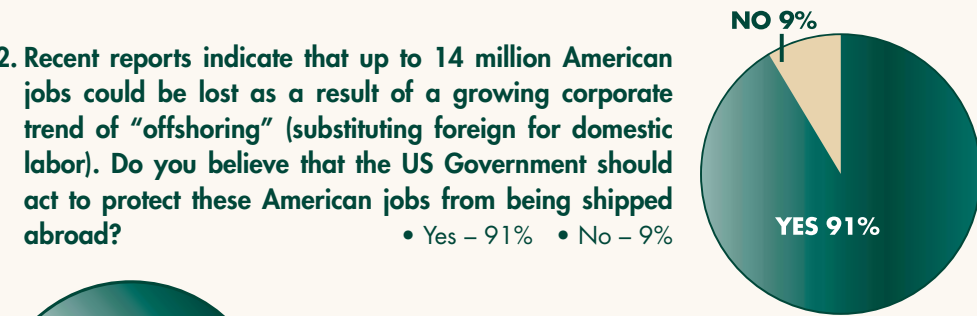


CONGRESSMAN BECERRA'S AMERICA'S JOBS AND THE ECONOMY SUMMER NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS . . .

1. What statements most reflect your opinion about what characterizes the current condition of our economy? (please check no more than 3)
- Too many jobs shipped overseas. 70%
 - We aren't preserving our manufacturing base, some jobs never coming back. 48%
 - Too many jobs being created in our economy pay less than those being lost. 48%
 - The \$477 billion budget deficit jeopardizes a long-term economic recovery. 38%
 - September 11 attacks and recession make economic recovery slower. 37%
 - Burgeoning federal budget deficits erode consumer purchasing power. 30%
 - More tax cuts needed to stimulate the economy. 13%



5. Based on current personal experience, what statement best reflects your view of the economy?
- Had difficulty finding a job and lost confidence about job opportunities. 55%
 - Economic situation is secure but worry about job losses and the slow economic recovery. 36%
 - The economy is recovering and will continue to improve. 9%

6. What did respondents choose as their #1 issue when ranking the below issues?
- Protecting civil liberties – 22%
 - Protecting social security – 18%
 - Expanding access to health care – 11%
 - Improving education – 11%
 - Protecting the environment – 9%
 - Reducing the deficit – 6%
 - Fighting terrorism – 6%
 - Creating jobs – 5%
 - Reducing taxes – 3%
 - Reducing crime – 3%
 - Increasing affordable housing – 3%
 - Other – 3%

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA
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January 2005

Dear Friend,

Join me, if you will, for a moment to reflect back on 2004 and then look ahead. What memories stand out? What are our hopes?

Last year four brave soldiers from our district were killed in Iraq. They, along with over 1400 other fallen American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, are my deepest memory of 2004. My greatest hope is that we begin to make the right decisions in Iraq so that our troops may return home safely – and soon – to their families.

Here in Los Angeles, reflecting back brings to mind the engaging and lively discussions during my "Coffee with Your Congressman" sessions held in every corner of our district last year. I said to those who attended the Coffees, "you keep coming, and I'll keep doing these face-to-face sessions." And you came, so get ready for 2005's Coffees! Please look out for your next invitation and I hope you'll come!

In Washington D.C. the recently-enacted 9/11 Commission Recommendations Implementation Act brings hope that these security enhancements will protect us from terrorist attack even further than previous measures taken. Also ahead – President Bush's plans regarding Social Security and revising our nation's tax code. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee I will have the opportunity to engage and participate firsthand as Congress considers his proposals. Rest assured I will fight to the end to protect Social Security benefits for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees. And, while our tax code certainly needs simplification, I fear an imprudent effort further shifting the cost of government more towards hard-working Americans' income and away from investment and inheritance income. The over \$7.5 trillion (and growing) federal debt casts a dark shadow, in particular when Social Security and tax code changes are under consideration.

For me, combining memories and experiences from the past with hopes and visions for the future is both grounding and inspirational. Much hard work lies ahead. Let's continue to stay in touch as we move forward.

Sincerely,
Xavier Becerra
Xavier Becerra

Si desea esta información en español, por favor llame al (213) 483-1425.

ARE YOU “CONNECTED” YET?! READY FOR 2005?!

Sign up today to receive “The Becerra Bulletin” and a 2005 “We the People” calendar. Simply log onto www.house.gov/becerra or complete and mail in the postcard below.

Check all that apply:

☐ Please add my name to Congressman Becerra’s e-mail list so that I may receive periodic electronic updates of events in Washington D.C. and in the 31st Congressional District.

E-mail address (Please print clearly)



☐ Please send me a 2005 “We the People” calendar! *Calendar supplies are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so please mail in your reply card early (preferably before January 31st to ensure proper delivery).*

Calendar will be mailed to the address indicated below as the “Sender.”



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1910 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 560
Los Angeles, CA 90026

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD - NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE 31ST DISTRICT



America’s Jobs & Economy Forum success
Over 200 community members attended Congressman Becerra’s August *America’s Jobs & Economy Forum* held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC). With U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Rep. Grace Napolitano and eight expert panelists participating, audience members had the opportunity to delve into current and future conditions of our nation’s job market and economy. If you came – great! If you missed it, the Forum’s transcript and photos are available at www.house.gov/becerra. **Check it out!**

Salute to Eagle Rock Elementary School

In November the U.S. Department of Education honored Eagle Rock Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School and also awarded Principal Jane Sierra with the Terrell H. Bell Award for School Leadership. Nationwide only 289 (out of close to 95,000) public and private elementary schools were chosen in 2004 as Blue Ribbon Schools. Congressman Becerra presented a certification of special congressional recognition and a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol at a community recognition event held at the school in November 2004. **Congratulations for A+ work!**

GOVERNMENT WORKING IN THE 31ST DISTRICT

Healthy Beginnings at South Central Family Health Center

\$150,000 in federal support secured by Congressman Becerra will soon help bring a new ultrasound machine for prenatal imaging to South Central Family Health Center (SCFHC), along with an expanded Women’s Health and Education Program. When compared to the rest of Los Angeles County, the community serviced by SCFHC experiences higher incidences of infant mortality, low birth weight babies, women receiving late or no prenatal care, and births to teenage moms. **A healthy start makes a difference!**

Cypress Park Youth Gain Junior Aztec Fire Fuels Crew Program

Congressman Becerra secured close to \$200,000 in federal funds to expand the Junior Aztec Fire Fuels Crew gang prevention program into Cypress Park. At-risk youth will receive training in basic firefighting and school work tutoring, as well as participate in community service activities. In December 2004 Congressman Becerra kicked off the program with L.A. City Councilman Ed Reyes and the first class of 30 participants with their parents at the Cypress Park Youth and Family Center.

Way to go – make us proud!



Congressman Becerra (middle right), with Councilman Reyes (middle left), presents check representing federal funds at the opening of Jr. Aztec Fire Fuels Program in Cypress Park, with Jr. Aztec staff and program participants.

DATELINE WASHINGTON D.C.

October 2004 – Becerra’s tax legislation (H.R. 3527) to encourage cleanup of the worst “Brownfield” sites becomes law. “Brownfields” are properties that have been contaminated by hazardous substances and sit idle because cleanup and redevelopment of the properties is too costly and risky. H.R. 3527, introduced by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Rep. Becerra as the lead cosponsors, provides tax incentives to private and non-profit interests willing to invest in the cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfield sites most in need of remediation. Los Angeles and Southern California, like other industrial areas, will benefit immensely from this new law. The House and Senate incorporated H.R. 3527 into H.R. 4520, which passed in the Congress on October 11, 2004.

November 2004 – Federal Debt Limit increased again – Congress passed H.J. Res 51 increasing the amount of money the federal government may legally borrow by another \$800 billion to a record borrowing limit of \$8.18 trillion. (To date, the national debt – the amount the government has actually borrowed – stands at over \$7.5 trillion.) The limit has climbed by \$2.23 trillion under this Administration. Just this increase in the debt

ceiling over the past three years is nearly 2½ times the entire federal debt accumulated over 200 years between 1776 and 1980. **Congressman Becerra voted against H.J. Res 51** because he considers it fiscally irresponsible to continue to drive up the nation’s debt.

December 2004 – 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act – Congressman Becerra voted in favor of the conference report on S. 2845 to ensure urgent action on vital reforms to make our country safer. Encompassing the majority of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, this legislation overhauls our intelligence agencies and institutes reforms for aviation security, maritime security, border security, emergency responders, and law enforcement. A Director of National Intelligence (DNI) will head the Intelligence Community and serve as the principal intelligence adviser to the President. Additionally, the new law establishes an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board with access to all government agencies to address concerns over privacy and civil liberties. For further details on this legislation please visit www.house.gov/becerra.